

BEFORE  
THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION OF  
SOUTH CAROLINA  
DOCKET NO. 2007-167-C - ORDER NO. 2008-214  
MARCH 27, 2008

IN RE: Petition Seven Bridges Communications,	) ORDER GRANTING
LLC for the Designation as an Eligible	) MOTION TO BE
Telecommunications Carrier	) RELIEVED AS COUNSEL

This matter comes before the Public Service Commission of South Carolina (“Commission”) on the Motion to be Relieved as Counsel of Robert E. Tyson, Jr., Esquire and his firm, Sowell Gray Stepp & Laffitte, LLC (collectively, “Sowell Gray”). Sowell Gray moves that the Commission issue an order relieving Sowell Gray as counsel for Seven Bridges Communications, LLC (“Seven Bridges” or the “Company”) in this proceeding regarding Seven Bridges’ petition for designation as an Eligible Telecommunications Carrier.

Sowell Gray asserts in its Motion that the Company has failed to participate with counsel in this matter and that without Seven Bridges’ participation and communication, counsel cannot proceed adequately on the Company’s behalf. Shortly after engaging Sowell Gray in June 2007, Seven Bridges requested the Company’s petition be held in abeyance, and the Commission issued Order No. 2007-599, dated July 31, 2007, granting Seven Bridges request whereby the petition was to be held in abeyance for 180 days, expiring January 25, 2008. Prior to January 25, 2008, Sowell Gray states that it attempted to communicate with Seven Bridges concerning future action in this docket via

telephone, facsimile, email, certified US mail and FedEx, but that Seven Bridges has not responded to any of counsel's communication efforts. According to Sowell Gray, it has given warning to Seven Bridges that it intends to withdraw as counsel due to the Company's lack of communication and involvement in this matter.

Pursuant to Rule 1.16(b)(5) of Rule 407, "Rules of Professional Conduct", of the South Carolina Appellate Court Rules, "a lawyer may withdraw from representing a client if. .(5) the client fails substantially to fulfill an obligation to the lawyer regarding the lawyers' services or payment therefore and has been given reasonable warning that the lawyer will withdraw unless the obligation is fulfilled."

We find that Seven Bridges has substantially failed to fulfill its obligation to Sowell Gray regarding Sowell Gray's legal services and that Sowell Gray gave the Company a reasonable warning that it would withdraw unless Seven Bridge's obligation was fulfilled. Accordingly, we grant the Motion of Robert E. Tyson, Jr., Esquire, and Sowell Gray Stepp & Laffitte, LLC to withdraw as counsel in this proceeding.

This Order shall remain in full force and effect until further Order of the Commission.

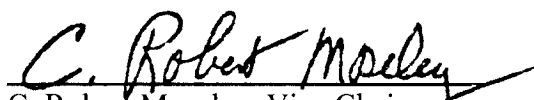
BY ORDER OF THE COMMISSION:



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G. O'Neal Hamilton, Chairman

ATTES1:

  
C. Robert Moseley, Vice Chairman  
(SEAL)